



Rebuilding Afghanistan

Weekly Activity Update for January 20 – February 02, 2004
Issue 44

United States Agency for International Development

STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNMENT

Program Goals

- Support the Bonn process: the Constitutional, Human Rights, and Judicial Commissions; the elections scheduled for June 2004; and a free and independent media.
- Improve government planning, budgeting, revenue generation (e.g., customs), monetary management, and private-sector related legal and regulatory frameworks.
- Build capacity to carry out other legitimate government functions and support reconstruction of health, judicial, education, economic, agricultural and transportation infrastructure.

Recent Progress:

USAID's media development initiatives aim to support implementation of the Bonn Agreement by increasing citizen awareness of the peace process, government plans, and positive political developments and by improving communication and interaction between citizens and government.

- **Radio Stations:** USAID is providing support to ensure that radio fulfills its potential as the only medium able to reach large numbers of Afghans. Fourteen new radio stations are being established, radio programming is being developed and distributed, and management and other central support services are being provided to help make the stations sustainable.

Recent Progress (continued):

- **Radio Programming:** The existing network of stations is broadcasting important news stories relating to the communities they serve, such as political developments, updates on infrastructure improvement, agricultural advances and educational opportunities.
- **Fireside Chats with U.S. Ambassador Khalilzad:** Starting in February, the Ambassador will begin a series of taped radio broadcasts, which will be characterized as "fireside chats." They will last approximately 10 minutes and will take place every two weeks.
- **New Radio Stations:** Four new private and independent radio stations were established during the past quarter, among them Afghanistan's third women's station, Radio Sahar, in Herat. The other stations set up during the quarter include Radio Sharq in Jalalabad city, Radio Tiraj Mir in Pul-e-Khumri, and Milli Paygham station in Logar.
- **Future Radio Stations:** Radio stations will be established in Qarabagh, Khost, Balkh, Kunduz, Chagcharan and Baraki Barak during the next quarter, contributing to a radio footprint reaching 25% of the population.

EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Program Goals

- 1,000 schools and at least 18 provincial women's centers rehabilitated or constructed.
- 15 million textbooks printed & distributed for 2004 school year
- 30,000 classroom teachers trained.
- 80,000 students enrolled in accelerated learning programs to reach their appropriate grade level.

Recent Progress

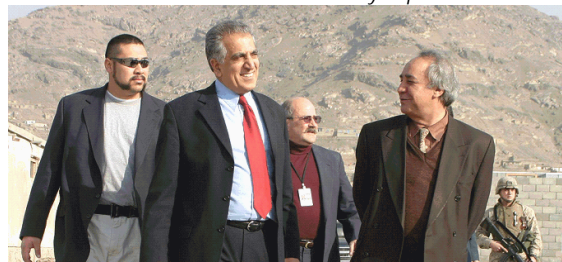
To date USAID has rehabilitated/constructed over 200 schools, including daycare centers, primary and secondary schools, teacher training institutes and vocational centers.

- **Girls' Dormitory in Kabul:** The U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, met with Dr. Mohammed Sharif Faez, Minister of Higher Education for Afghanistan, and James Bever, USAID Mission Director, on a construction site for a girls' dormitory in Kabul. The United States Government is preparing to rehabilitate the dormitory, which will house more than 1,000 girls who come to Kabul to pursue postsecondary education.
- **School Construction:** USAID is currently constructing over 50 schools, including an eight-classroom school in Faryab province. USAID contractors will increase the construction rate once spring arrives and the temperature becomes more conducive for mixing cement.

Recent Progress (continued):



Foundations for a school in Faryab province



U.S. Ambassador Khalilzad walks with Minister of Higher Education Sharif Faez (right) and USAID Mission Director James Bever (middle).

INCREASING ACCESS TO BASIC HEALTH CARE

Program Goals

- 400 health centers renovated or constructed in rural areas, providing services to an estimated 12 million people.
- 11 million beneficiaries assured improved access to basic services in 13 provinces; 4.4 million women and children given access to services through USAID's health care initiative grants.
- 3,400 new community health workers, 990 midwives, 6,000 clinic staff trained.
- Make safe water systems, iodized salt, contraceptives, mosquito nets and other health products available at reasonable prices using existing trading and marketing systems.
- Develop a public health education program with the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH); strengthen MOPH capacity at the national and provincial levels for guiding effective health care policy.

Recent Progress:

The USAID-funded REACH (Rural Expansion of Afghanistan's Community-Based Healthcare) program aims to improve the health of women of reproductive age and children under 5 years of age through increased use of basic health services in rural areas.

- **Basic Package of Health Services:** Under a USAID/REACH grant and in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health, the Afghan non-government organization, Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance, is working with local community leaders and heads of households to deliver the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) in selected districts in Herat and Faryab Provinces. The BPHS includes maternal and newborn care, child health care and immunization, public nutrition, control of communicable diseases, and supply of essential drugs.
- **Community Health Workers:** A key element in delivering the Basic Package of Health Services to isolated areas in Afghanistan is the community health worker. Community health workers enable women and children to access quality health services at the community level. They are responsible for making regular home visits within their own communities to identify and address selected health problems, to promote the adoption of good health practices and basic elements of safe motherhood, such as birth preparedness, and to refer needed cases to health facilities.
- **Community Mapping:** Community mapping is an important pictorial tool that helps literate and illiterate community health workers to better know the families they are responsible for in the community and thereby better define their needs for health care. Through the use of a community map, community health workers locate and track individual compositions of households and their health needs. The Afghan non-government organization, Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA), is the first REACH grant recipient to utilize this tool. CHA is currently working in the district of Zindajan in Herat province. Last week Deputy Minister of Public Health Dr. Feroz, along with USAID/REACH Program staff, visited CHA's community mapping site.

Recent Progress (continued):

- **Community Mapping Expansion:** Other non-governmental organizations supported by the REACH Program in Kabul and Takhar provinces will soon experiment with the community mapping tool in their respective communities, and subsequently present their experiences and results to the Ministry of Public Health—drawing conclusions and recommendations for a possible national deployment of community mapping.



Deputy Minister of Public Health Ferozuddin Feroz receives a briefing by a local Community Health Worker on the recently introduced community health mapping tool in Shada cluster, Zindajan district, Herat province.



Site inspection visit to model clinic in Qala-e-Qazi, which is scheduled for completion by mid-February.